

Excise Tax Advisory

Excise Tax Advisories are interpretive statements authorized by RCW 34.05.230.

NUMBER: 9xxx.200x ISSUE DATE:

Digital Products – General Analysis of Tax Liability

Overview

This excise tax advisory summarizes the overall process of analysis, highlights key considerations in the analysis process, and directs taxpayers to other excise tax advisories that contain more detailed discussions.

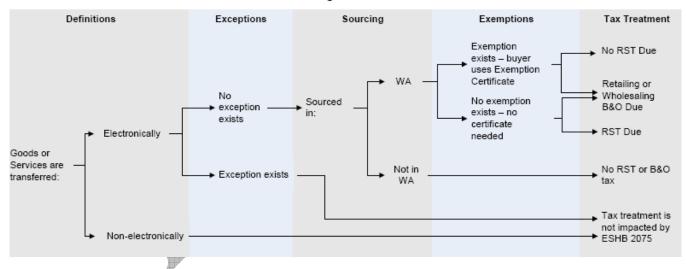
Decision tree

The graphic below demonstrates the analysis needed to determine if an electronically-transferred product is taxable as a digital product or remote access software as of July 26, 2009.

Presumptions

This decision tree presumes the seller is responsible for collecting Washington's retail sales tax. If the seller does not collect the sales tax, the buyer would still determine if it is responsible for remitting retail sales or use tax to the Department of Revenue (Department).

Decision Tree for Tax Treatment of Digital Products and Remote Access Software



Continued on next page

All ETAs were cancelled on February 2, 2009 and those which had a continued use were rewritten and reissued using a new numbering system. The new ETAs are numbered using the following format 3nnn.yyyy. The Department of Revenue issued ETA 3001.2009 which includes a cross reference table showing the old and new ETA numbers for those ETAs that were rewritten.

To inquire about the availability of receiving this document in an alternate format for the visually impaired or language other than English, please call (360)705-6715. Teletype (TTY) users please call 1-800-451-7985.

Please direct comments to: Department of Revenue Interpretation and Technical Advice Division P O Box 47453 Olympia, Washington 98504-7453 (360) 570.6124 eta@DOR.wa.gov



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Digital Products - General Analysis of Tax Liability, Continued



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Analysis steps

Taxpayers may not need to consider every step of analysis to determine if a sale is taxable or not, but it is important to remember the overall process and the consequences that result from determinations made at any level of analysis.

The table below lists the step, analysis, and the ETA reference for more detailed information.

moma	310111	
Step	Analysis	ETA
1	Does the transaction involve the electronic transfer of a	See 9001 and
	product or service?	9002 for
		guidance
		already
		issued
2	Do any exceptions from the definition of digital product or	9005 -
	remote access software apply?	October
		Issuance
		Planned
3	Where do you source the sale of a digital product?	9006 – Draft
		available for
		comment
4	Does an exemption from retail sales or use tax apply to the	9007 -
	sale of a digital product?	October
· ·		Issuance
		Planned
5	Are other issues such as amnesty, nexus, or royalties	9008 -
	involved?	NOT
		ISSUED
		YET

Click <u>here</u>¹ for more information concerning location codes and other tools to help you determine local sales tax rates.

1 http://dor.wa.gov/content/FindTaxesAndRates/SalesAndUseTaxRates/

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